

# **Religion ISU:**

## **Saint Francis Of Assisi**



**Rainier Jorge Jorda**

**Mr. Vigilanti**

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## **Part 1: My Life Reflection**

1. What I understand when you ask me, about being created in the image and likeness of God is that I've been created in what God wants me to be and who he wants me to be in this world. It told me that everyone is unique yet also the same as we were all created to be what God wants us to be. This realization influenced my day to day activities in a big way, it tells me that everyone is the same, even though we might look different; so if I mock someone or bully them all because of their looks, I'm also mocking the image and likeness of God, who created that person. It also tells me that I'm mocking myself too as God also created me in his image and likeness, the same way the person I am mocking is created.

2. The time where my own trust in God was most tested was on a tournament day. It was an Individual Chess Tournament that I went, a City Tournament. A tournament in which all the winners of Regional Tournament go to, to fight it out to go to the next tournament, The Provisional Tournament. It was my fourth game, I had won two matches and lost one and if I didn't win my fourth game, I would drop out and not be able to go to the Provisional Tournament. My opponent was exceptional, he was very good at Chess, and all my tactics were shut down by him. I was on the losing side, losing sight of hope in which I win the game. I was about to lose until I saw a move, I saw something in which I would be able to win, but I need him to make a mistake. At this moment I felt like God was testing me, he was testing my faith, my trust in him, for to believe that God will help me.

3. The hope that Jesus offers me in my life right now is being able to get through anything. The reason to why Jesus offers me this kind of hope is because he was able to get through whatever hardships he went through. Like being betrayed by one of his disciples, being sentenced to death by his own people who had worshipped him, or having to carry his own cross for a long time. Even though these hardships were very hard to get through, Jesus was able to carry on and finish his duty. This inspired me that I can get through anything just like Jesus, even though his bumps and hardships are way more intense compared to mines, it showed me that I can get through these tiny bumps on my road.

4. What being truly free means to me is that I don't have to worry about any hardships in my life, but also the people around me don't have to worry about anything as well. The way I can be truly free as a young adult, is being successful in everything. I want to be able to relax and not having to worry about anything as a young adult as my past self had set up everything for me to be successful.

### **Introduction:**

Francis of Assisi was a very inspiring person for the poor. He showed that even though he was poor and living a tough life, he was still able to believe in God, and do many things that people who lived in poverty would never do something. He showed those people that even though your poor, you can still spare some money and time to go and pray to God and believe in him to help you through poverty. Yet St. Francis of Assisi was never always poor, only later in his life was when he became poor.

## **Francis Of Assisi**

The beginning of St. Francis of Assisi's life began in Italy circa 1181. He was a privileged child, getting anything he wanted as his father was a wealthy cloth merchant. Yet, in his early life he was never known for being a kind and caring person, he was actually a spoiled child, indulging himself with fine food, drinking tons of wine, and having wild celebrations. At the age of 14 he had left school, St. Francis was actually known for being a rebellious teenager who frequently drank and partied, and even disobeyed the city curfew. Even in his privileged surroundings he still learned archery, wrestling and horsemanship. He was expected to follow in his father's footsteps, into the family textile business but he was bored of cloth trading. Instead he enjoyed becoming a merchant in the future. He imagined being a famous knight who roamed through the land, winning many battles. It wouldn't take long before he had an opportunity to show himself. In 1206 war broke out between Assisi and Perugia and Francis was eager to fight in this war.

Francis and the men of Assisi came under heavy attack by their opponents. It was soon before they became overwhelmed by their opponents and fled. Most people were butchered, however Francis and other men were spared as they were wearing wealthy armour and considered him to be a good ransom. Awaiting for his father's payment, Francis and the other wealthy troops were taken prisoners, in which he had to spend nearly a year in miserable conditions where he might also have contracted a serious disease. But, during his time there he began to receive visions from God.

After his ransom was accepted, Francis left as a very different man. When he returned he was a very ill man a casualty of the war. His earlier lifestyle lost his appeal, his mind began to focus on God. Instead of working, he would spend an extraordinary amount of time at remote mountains or old, quiet churches praying. During a time, when he was at an old Byzantium church at San Damiano, he would repeatedly hear Christ's voice. That voice told him to rebuild his church and to live in extreme poverty, in which Francis obeyed and devoted himself to Christianity. He first started preaching which gathered 12 followers, some people might've seen Francis as a fool or a madman yet some consider him to be one of the greatest examples in how to live in Christian ideal ever since Jesus Christ himself. Even if he was mentally ill or touched by God, Francis became well known throughout the Christian community.

After his epiphany at the Church of San Damiano, Francis will experience another defining moment of his life. In order for Francis to fulfill Christ's wishes, he sold all of his things even some of his father's stuff too, in which he donated to the Church. Upon learning of this, his father was furious in which he dragged Francis in front of a local bishop. That bishop then told Francis to give back his father's money in which his reaction was extraordinary. He stripped down all of his clothes and along with him all the money he had donated to his father, then declaring that God will be his only father. After this even Francis and his father never spoke again. After the bishop giving clothes to him Francis left the church, only to meet a dangerous group of people who beat him badly, only which he dedicated himself to the Gospels. Francis embraced his Christian-like poverty and the Church being tremendously rich in which many people started to come to it. This concerned Francis which he soon had a goal where he would restore Jesus' own,

original goals. Francis would push himself to the fullest, going around many villages and town preaching about Jesus Christ in a new kind of emotional and personal way so that everyone could understand it. He would preach to 5 villages per day and drawing thousands of people due to his charisma, some would even joined his way of life. He would even go so far into preaching to animals, in which some would call him “God’s fool.” But his message went far throughout the world, in which many people would be captivated by his word.

In 1224, during his regular life of poverty Francis reported said he had a vision stigmata of Jesus Christ. Resembling the same marks of Jesus Christ wounds in which he suffered for the sake of humankind. This made Francis the first person to have ever received such a holy stigmata, these marks would remain throughout his entire life. As Francis started to approach death many predicted that he was a saint in the making, when his life started to decline more rapidly he would return home in which Knights of Assisi defend home, making sure that no neighbouring towns would steal his body as a saint body viewed to be a very valuable relic. Francis would later die on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44 in Assisi, Italy. Francis had built up many followers in his life, having millions of followers throughout the world. He would later be canonized as a saint just two years after his death by Pope Gregory IX. Today in 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergogli would honor him by taking his name as Pope Francis. His feast day is also on October 4.

## **Part 2: My Inspiring Person Of Faith**

1. The reason to why Saint Francis is a person of faith is his dedication to not only preaching but also keeping his word on the way he lives. His dedication to both preaching and living really shows Christians how to live their life in the way of God, to live how God wants them too. His dedication caused him to become a person of faith. What caused Francis to have faith is because of the vision he had while he was a prisoner. Instead of dismissing this as just a random vision, he instead fulfill that vision where he had to rebuild his God's church. This later caused him to have even more visions of God, which soon became his faith.

2. The way Francis responded to God's calling is by rebuilding God's church for him. When God first called him, he didn't dismiss that vision, instead he spent more time with the Catholic church and prayed. This later caused more visions in which he had to rebuild the Church where he is praying at. Because of Francis dedication to rebuild the Church, he dismissed all the rules even his father just to fulfill God's wish. Francis even consider that God is the only one who he will call his father.

3. The biggest challenges Francis ever faced with his faithfulness is his wounds, sickness, and diseases he had during his faithfulness. Francis had to suffer by his wounds and sickness along his journey through Christianity, most people would stop and treat those wounds and sickness yet Francis believe those wounds are what God wants him to have throughout his journey. The way Francis anchor his hope in God is by preaching another in which they could understand. He

anchor his hope in a way, similar to Jesus Christ did at his time. The message of hope God gave Francis was the holy stigmata he had, the marks were very similar to what Jesus Christ had which showed him that he would become a very special person in God's kingdom.

4. The way Francis faith challenge me is by having to drop everything I have for God. I, as a person would mostly likely not drop everything I have that is special to me for God. Yet, the way Francis faith also inspires me to continue living my faith is by what he got at the end. It showed me that if I live in the way God wants me to live, I also will become a special person in God's kingdom, just like Francis did. The way I can emulate Francis into my everyday life is by giving things to people in need. Like giving money to the church, helping those that need help, giving money or food to poor people. These are the ways I can emulate Francis faith into my own faith too.

### **Conclusion:**

Francis is a very important person in the Christian community. He had not only shown me the struggles of a person of faith, but everyone in the whole Christian Community. It showed everyone that even privileged people can become someone special in God's kingdom. Without Francis, I believe the Christian faith would have changed. Without him showing how God not only wants them to teach, but the way Jesus Christ also teaches, I believe everything we know now about them would have been different.

Link:



<https://www.biography.com/religious-figure/saint-francis-of-assisi>